

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the December Issue of OUR TOWN

As we approach the end of the year, there are several important updates to be grateful for. In this month's newsletter, you'll find essential information about the Board of Selectmen's initiatives, DPW's project updates, and upcoming events from Parks and Recreation, Library, and the Council on Aging

We're excited to announce that we've switched our newsletter subscription platform to Constant Contact, which should make it easier for you to subscribe. Additionally, we've launched an additional subscription option for "Town News & Alerts" on Constant Contact. Our goal is to ensure that it's effortless and efficient for you to stay informed about your local government. We encourage you to subscribe and invite others to do the same. Sign up below!

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the January issue, please contact newsletter@doverma.gov

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VOL. 2, NO.12, DECEMBER 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

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Town Departments

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- Board of Health
- Council on Aging
- Department of Public Works
- Dover Police Department
- Library
- Library Trustees

**Spotlight on Caryl Farm
Schools**

Boards and Committees

- Open Space
- Town Report
- Warrant Committee
- Recycling Committee
- Tree Preservation
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BOS/Warrant Committee

FY 25 budget preparation has started with preliminary department budget proposals to be reviewed in upcoming meetings of the BOS and Warrant Committee. Two initiatives, the opening of Dover's Community Center in the fall and restarting our technology projects, dormant since July, 2023, will have a budgetary impact. Please refer to the Warrant Committees webpage: <https://www.doverma.gov/338/Warrant-Committee>

Dover Community Center

Demolition/construction work continued into December. Excavation for the Pavilion building foundations was complete and the perimeter footings were poured. Within the 1910 Section Formwork/reinforcing of the perimeter foundation walls will be done next. In the Gym building footprint, the footings for the fire protection holding tank and limited perimeter footings were also placed. The next major milestone will be the steel delivery/erection once all the foundations are complete. The project is currently estimated to be 3 weeks behind schedule due to the additional asbestos abatement work. The project team is assessing ways to mitigate this impact to the schedule. For more information and pictures please click on this link <https://www.doverma.gov/452/Community-Center-Building-Committee>.

At their November 15 meeting the Board of Selectmen unanimously affirmed their vote to hire a CC Director to manage the facility reporting to the Town Administrator. Working along with the COA and P&R director, they will form the operating team responsible for meeting our community's broad programming interests. The Board strongly believes that critical Town facilities/functions should be managed by qualified professionals reporting to Town employees not residents/volunteers.



Picture of the worksite depicting newly poured perimeter footings



Picture of the worksite depicting newly poured footing for fire protection holding tank



Picture of the 1910 building depicting newly installed shoring and partial demolition of the facade of the building

BOS Roles and Responsibilities

The Board finalized its Roles and Responsibilities Guideline after fully vetting the document with Town Boards and Committees and Town Counsel. They have also provided a graphic and Town Organization chart to help residents understand Dover's governance complexity. The Board suggests that other governance entities consider doing something similar to provide residents with refreshed information about their role in Dover. The Board of Selectmen appreciates that the Town's bylaws provide a framework under which they are required to operate and that any changes to this framework can only be made with Town Meeting approval.

Board of Selectmen cont.



BOS Administration

Staffing/Onboarding - For our FY 25 budget we are assessing the Town's overall staffing needs. We want to be in a position where we have identified all critical positions with additional capacity to weather turnover.

3 to 5 Committee

The Committee has developed and reviewed a set of questions regarding increasing the membership of the BOS from three to five members. These questions will provide guidance to the Town Administrator for the scope of work for the consultant. Upcoming committee meetings will include discussion with the Town Administrator regarding the process of hiring and working with a consultant.

Housing Task Force

The Board has established a Housing Task Force (HTF), consisting of one member each of the Planning Board, the Board of Health (BOH), the Conservation Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the BOS. The HTF will also include the following Town employees: Town Administrator, Town Planner, Board of Health Agent, Town Inspector, Town Engineer and Consulting Conservation Agent.

The initial focus of the HTF will be to establish a formal internal process for the Town to review multi-family development requests. This process will ensure that all evaluators have the most current information, and that the information is disseminated and posted regularly so that citizens can follow the process. The dissemination of materials will also include an education component.

The HTF met for the first time on October 18 and expects to have an initial framework for review of such developments by early December. The catalyst to establish this task force is a result of the increase in multifamily applications received by the Town over the past few months. The Town is currently evaluating three such developments, see: <https://www.doverma.gov/286/Board-of-Appeals>

Meet the Team

Town of Dover Welcomes New Assistant Town Administrator

The Town of Dover is pleased to announce that Chris Costello has joined us as the new Assistant Town Administrator. Chris started on October 30th. He came from the Town of Wayland, where he worked as a Management Analyst for the Town Manager. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Public Relations from Bridgewater State University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University. Chris brings with him a variety of experiences in public communication and is committed to improving access to information and engaging with the residents of Dover.



State Representative

Representative Denise Garlick



State Representative – 13th Norfolk District
Serving Needham, Dover, and Precincts 1 and 2 in Medfield

Interested in learning more about statewide news? Click the link below to find out more about the work of Denise Garlick, State Representative, and sign up for her weekly newsletter.
<https://repgarlick.com/blog/>

Parks and Recreation

Junior Ski and Snowboard Lessons

Dover's Park & Recreation Department is offering exciting opportunities this winter. If you're interested in Junior Ski and Snowboard lessons at Blue Hills, you can now register on [Doverrec.activityreg.com](https://doverrec.activityreg.com). Keep in mind that there is limited space, so make sure to sign up soon!

Summer Counselor Opportunities

Additionally, the Parks & Recreation Department is looking for counselor applications for Summer 2024. Applications will be available starting January 2, 2024. This is a seasonal job opportunity that you don't want to miss out on! Applicants must be a Dover resident and over the age of 16.



Board of Health

Waste Disposal Regulations

The Board of Health has adopted new regulations for the removal, transport, and disposal of solid waste and recyclables. If your home is serviced by a private waste hauler and you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 508-785-0032, ext. 232.





The Council on Aging has some festive programs this month and invites all seniors to attend. Please email coa@doverma.gov or call 508-315-5734 to sign up. Ask to be added to our email list with weekly updates and links to a convenient online program signup page.

Dover Police COA Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Chickering School Cafeteria, 29 Cross Street

The Dover Police Holiday Brunch is an opportunity for older adults to meet the local police as they cook a delicious breakfast to celebrate the holidays! Walk-ins are welcome for this annual event.

Holiday Concert & Cookies

Tuesday, December 5, 3:00-4:00 pm
The Dover Church, Kraft Hall

Dover Sherborn High School's acappella groups will perform for seniors at this special event. Pick up a box of assorted holiday cookies made by our amazing COA volunteers, and stay to enjoy the music. Email coa@doverma.gov or call us at 508-315-5734 to reserve a cookie box.

Sand for Seniors

COA, in partnership with the Men's Breakfast Group at The Dover Church will once again prepare and deliver buckets of sand/salt to Dover seniors. If you would like a bucket of sand/salt (complete with lid and scoop) for your steps or walkway, email coa@doverma.gov or call the COA at 508-315-5734. Buckets will be delivered Saturday, December 9. Funded by Friends of Dover COA.

Department of Public Works

The Claybrook Road Project

Claybrook Road, a significant project for the Dover DPW, has undergone extensive improvements since the last update. The latest work includes the paving of a base layer and the installation of a guardrail, which has made it possible for the road to be opened for two-way traffic during the winter months. While significant progress has been made, some work remains to be done. This includes planting borrow and plants, final paving, and striping, which will be completed in the spring of 2024 when the weather permits. The Dover DPW has temporarily suspended work on Claybrook Road until then, and residents can expect a fully revamped road come spring.



A picture of Claybrook road with new guardrail



Thank you for your patience as
this work is completed.



A picture of Claybrook road with new guardrail

Dover Police Department

Scam Phone Calls - Be Aware!

The Dover Police Department has received several reports of scam phone calls. The person identifies themselves as a Dover Police Officer and may use the actual names of Dover Police Officers. The scammers are telling people that they are from the citation department and that they owe money. Please do not give any personal information to these scammers and do not give them money. Call the Dover Police Department dispatch desk with any questions 508-785-1130.



Dover Police Seal

Annual Toys for Tots Program

The Police Department is taking part in the Annual Toys for Tots initiative, whose main objective is to gather new, unwrapped toys and distribute them to underprivileged children during Christmas. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Dover Police Station lobby located at 3 Walpole St, Dover.



A police officer dressed as santa standing next to a toys for tots sign



A police officer dressed as santa sitting in a police car with lights on

Library Trustees

Final Call – Survey Closes 12/8!

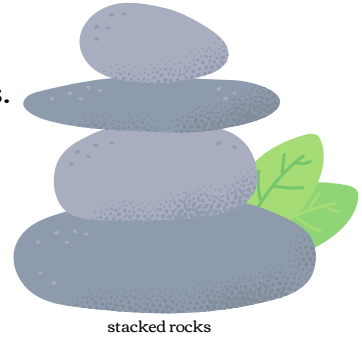
**The library is for everyone.
Help us make it for you.**

Take the survey @ <https://bit.ly/3tsRnp7>

stop by office hours, listed as "Dear Future:
Office Hours for DTL Planning" @
<http://dovertownlibrary.org/calendar/>

Don't have a library card? Have one, but barely use the library? Use the library mostly for your kids, but not for you? We especially want to hear from YOU!





December events at the Library

Highlights of a few of the many events at the Library this month.
Click [here](#) for more events and registration.

Virtual: Loving-Kindness Meditation

Wednesday, December 6th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

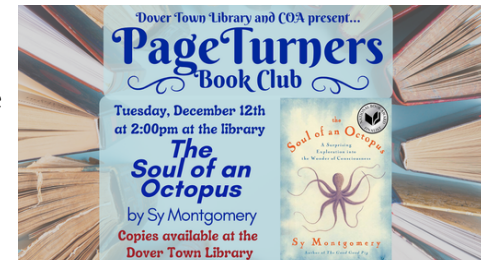
The DTL is pleased to welcome back 'Meditate with Amy' for a virtual meditation session in the middle of the busy holiday season. During this session we'll learn to cultivate love, compassion, and care towards ourselves and other people in our lives. This practice is part creative visualization, and part repeating loving phrases to ourselves and others. Loving-Kindness is a beautiful powerful reminder of how we are all deeply interconnected in our desire to feel love and to be happy. It promotes feelings of compassion, warmth and connectedness and is also a powerful stress relieving tool. Sign up on our website.

Page Turners Book Club

Tuesday, December 12 2:00–3:00 PM

The library moderates this book discussion group in conjunction with the Council on Aging. Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm, to discuss selected fiction and nonfiction titles. No registration is required.

This month's selection is... The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery



A Winter Solstice Celebration!

Wednesday, December 20

4:00–5:00 PM, Community Room

This festive program includes songs from around the world that have been bringing people together during the dark of winter. Songs from Asian, African, Native American and other traditions are often interspersed with familiar Chanukah and Christmas songs. Seasonal songs, interactive play party songs and family sing-alongs round out the program bringing warmth and good humor to all ages. Kids even create a snow storm, shovel the snow and get to enjoy a school 'snow day' while singing a song! Programs can also be tailored to special holiday events such as Christmas parties (for adult or family audiences) where mostly Christmas songs and seasonal sing-alongs may be preferred. A Winter Solstice Celebration is performed on a variety of instruments that may include: guitar, banjo, mandolin, balalaika, harmonica, Irish bodhran, Puerto Rican cuatro, Incan charango, Latin percussion and African drum. Audience participation may include singing, dancing and playing percussion instruments.

No Registration Required



Teen Advisory Board

Monday, December 18, 6:30–7:30 PM, Living Room

Join us for our Teen Advisory Board meeting. Earn community service hours! Eat pizza and salad! Discuss library programs and materials with the YA Librarian Tobi Bentley. Tell us what today's students want from their local public library and how best we can serve you. No registration required! Must be between the ages of 12 - 17 years old.

Spotlight on Dover's Caryl Farm

Sandwiched between the playing fields and tennis courts of what is now Caryl Park, it is difficult to imagine the Dover Historical Society's Caryl Farm at 107 Dedham Street as an 83-acre country farm. Now a house museum with a contemporary barn saved from another Dover property, the house was home to Dover's first minister. Benjamin Caryl was born in Hopkinton in 1732 and graduated from Harvard College in 1761. In 1762 he was ordained as Minister of Dedham's Fourth Precinct, later to become the Town of Dover. Later that year he married the widow Sarah (Messenger) Kollock of Wrentham and purchased the Eleazer Ellis farm on Dedham Street. They occupied an existing home on the premises until the present one could be built in 1774, using wood and bricks taken from the earlier structure.

The Town is fortunate in that members of the same family continuously occupied the Caryl House for four generations. The modest means of later generations prevented them from making significant improvements, leaving it as much as it was originally constructed. On the death of the last member of the Caryl family, Ellen Miller, in 1898, the house and its 83 acres were acquired by a prosperous local farmer, George Ellis Chickering.

In 1917, Chickering donated the house and land to the Town of Dover for use as a park, stipulating that the house be placed under the care and management of the Dover Historical Society. Sadly, the house had been burglarized during Ellen Miller's funeral and most of its original contents were stolen. The handful of surviving Caryl family possessions are on display, most notably the family cradle and an enormous loom found disassembled in the attic and restored to functionality.

Those interested in the architecture of historic homes appreciate the abundant period details as well as the interesting history of the original family who built it. Most children who tour the property enjoy the original Hodgson Chicken Coop that will soon be occupied by several hens and the line of sweet Concord grapes that grow at eye level near the parking area, the apple grove, and the herb garden.

While presently closed for the season, Caryl Farm is open on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Spring and Fall. Private tours can also be arranged. Read the full article here:

<http://doverhistoricalsociety.org/CarylHouse.pdf>



A house with sign in front of it



A old picture of a house



a picture of a barn

Schools

Chickering Elementary School

As we approach this thankful time of year, we are reminded of the amazing support of the Dover and Boston Families that make up our Chickering Community. Thank you for your dedication and engagement with us as we foster an environment where all children can learn, laugh, grow, care, and make a difference. As readers, writers, mathematicians, historians and scientists, Chickering students are developing foundational skills upon which they will develop academic rigor and competencies. Through out our Fine Arts and Physical Education programs our students learn to appreciate the world beyond Chickering and to express themselves in creative ways. Learning fitness skills, competitive and cooperative play are life skills for a healthy body and mind. Our Spanish teachers help us all to learn about different cultures, an appreciation and understanding of others, and a lot of fun dances.

Chickering is proud to share that we collected Thanksgiving day supplies, such as corn, stuffing, paper goods and grocery cards to support 27 families through Family Promise and had extra to share with A Place to Turn. Extra thanks to teachers and students for the festive boxes, thoughtful cards, and beautiful artwork. The extra dose of kindness means so much at this time of year!



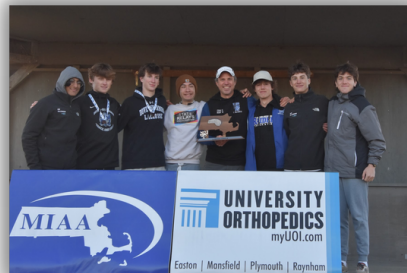
A collage of children making thanksgiving cards

Dover Sherborn High School

This post season has been exceptional for the DSHS Raiders! The golf team started us off by winning the 2023 MIAA D2 State Championship, and Charlie Potter was the MIAA D2 Individual State Champion. Boys soccer qualified for the MIAA Elite 8 Round at Oakmont Regional before falling to them on the road 2-0 in a great game and season. The boys and girls cross country teams each placed second at the MIAA D2C state race this past weekend, which was the highest combined finish for the cross country teams in school history. The field hockey team played in the Final Four vs. Newburyport, but fell to them 2-1. The girl' soccer team played in the Final Four vs. Hanover, but lost 2-1. The football team closed out the Fall season on Thanksgiving vs. Medfield at home, losing to Medfield 25-7. See some great pictures attached from the postseason! Congratulations to all Dover-Sherborn Athletes on a great fall season!!



Girls Cross Country Team Holding Trophy



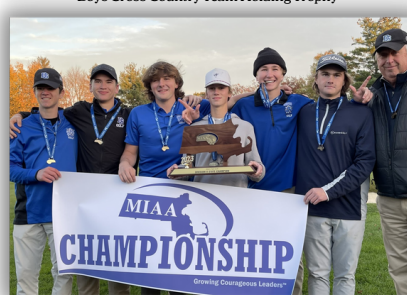
Boys Cross Country Team Holding Trophy



Girls Soccer Team Holding Final Four Trophy



Field Hockey Team Holding Final Four Trophy



Golf Team Holding Championship Trophy



Dover-Sherborn High School Logo

Open Space Committee



Guided Walks

Please join us for a guided walk with a break to warm up with cider & donuts and celebrate the conservation efforts at Hale, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC). This walk is especially relevant for Dover & Westwood residents. Please encourage your neighbors to come too!

On December 9th, we will walk through Hale and sample a few of the over 20 miles of trails which are interconnected Town of Dover's Larrabee Estate and Trustees of Reservations' Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm. This forms a contiguous landscape of over 2300 acres of open space and over 3500 acres accessible through a network of recreational trails! Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dover-open-space-committee-43318732263>



An image of an open body of water and forest

Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground so wear appropriate footwear and bring walking sticks, binoculars and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine. Parking & meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants.

Town Report Committee

The Town Report Committee Seeks Photos for Publication

Every year, the Town Report is illustrated with photographs that showcase Dover and its citizens through themes such as nature and wildlife, town architecture, sports events, and everyday scenes or traditional events (Dover Days, summer concerts, Memorial Day activities, etc.). The Town Report Committee greatly encourages residents and nonresidents alike to submit their photographs for publication consideration. Photographs can be contemporary or archival, in black and white or color, and in print or electronic formats. Multiple submissions are welcome, but the submitter must either own the material or know who does. [Click here to fill out an online form to submit photographs and grant permission for their use in the Town Report.](#) Any questions can be sent to townreport@doverma.gov

Warrant Committee



Warrant Committee Begins Fiscal Year 2025 Budgeting Process

Town officials and staff are now starting the budgeting process for fiscal year 2025, which begins on July 1, 2024. Here is the planned schedule of meetings when the Warrant Committee will review FY25 budget items. Meetings are generally held via Zoom and can be found on the Town's website. Residents who wish to advocate for a particular service or budget can do so at these meetings.

Warrant Committee Review Schedule:

Dec. 6, 2023 - Town Administrator Overview; Town Clerk, Elections & Registrations; Personnel Board

Dec. 13, 2023 - Board of Health; Council on Aging; Warrant Committee

Recycling Committee

Town of Dover Transfer Station sign



Results of Special Recycling Weekends:

The Dover Recycling Committee thanks all residents for their participation in the recent Special Recycling weekends. 82 tires were recycled with the financial support of Dover Mobil. Jay Hughes and John Hughes of Dover Country Properties provided the financial support for the shredding of 2250 lbs. of paper documents. The weekend donations included 17 bicycles to The Bike connector, a trailer load of furniture to New Life Furniture Bank and a trunk load of reusable bags to A Place to Turn.

Dover Awarded Funds for Recycling Programs

Dover has been awarded \$7200 through the state's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. This annual program funds investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction, and more practices.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth. The Dover Recycling committee encourages you to utilize the <https://recyclesmartma.org/> website to learn how to recycle any items.

Holiday Season Recycling Guidelines:

The Dover Recycling Committee (DRC) announces guidelines for recycling during the holiday season to encourage residents to continue to reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve town funds.



RECYCLE – DO NOT THROW IN THE TRASH

- **CARDBOARD BOXES:** Breakdown and flatten all boxes and remove plastic liners and Styrofoam. Include greasy pizza boxes.
- **TEXTILES:** Bag dry textiles (old clothes, shoes, bedding, etc.) in any condition and place them in the textile bins at the Transfer Station or at the Middle and High Schools.
- **CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS AND PLANTS:** Strip all ornaments, tinsel and wires and deposit in the yard waste section of the Transfer Station.
- **FOOD WASTE:** Bag all food waste including turkey carcasses, egg shells, all bones, fruits and vegetables and deposit in the Food Waste barrels at the Transfer Station.
- **WRAPPING PAPER:** It goes in the regular trash since it is chemically treated with fire retardant and cannot be recycled. **DO NOT THROW IT IN THE MIXED PAPER TRAILER.**
- **REFUNDABLE BOTTLES AND CANS:** Place in the barrels at the deposit trailer.

THROW IN THE TRASH

- **HOLIDAY TANGLERS:** Keep holiday tanglers out of your recycling. String decorations like holiday lights and tinsel create a mess once inside recycling facilities.
- **STYROFOAM & PLASTIC LINERS:** Throw in the trash.
- **BLACK PLASTIC:** Throw in the trash.
- **WAXED CARDBOARD:** Milk, juice, soup cartons-throw in the trash.

Conservation Commission

Environmental Benefits of Trees

Trees and forests play an incredibly vital role in protecting our environment by reducing climate change, reducing stormwater runoff, providing wildlife habitat, and removing and filtering pollutants that would otherwise wind up in our waterways and possibly our drinking water. While Dover is fortunate to have many beautiful open spaces with expansive tree canopies and forests, increased development is resulting in large numbers of trees being removed and not replaced, resulting in a wide range of negative impacts. The Conservation Commission protects trees and vegetation within the 100-foot buffer zone surrounding our streams, ponds, wet meadows, and in floodplains. However, trees outside these protected wetland buffer zones can be removed with no review or permit, which is why the Commission is working with the Planning Board's Tree Preservation Committee to explore strategies for protecting and preserving the Town's trees.

The Commission encourages residents to protect, preserve, and plant trees on their property, which provide the following important environmental benefits:

Trees Filter Your Drinking Water Making it Clean and Reliable

Trees store and filter more than half of our drinking water supply and are incredibly efficient at removing pollutants and sediments from rainfall and then slowly releasing the water back into waterways and underground aquifers that supply our drinking water. Without tree leaves intercepting the rains and their roots facilitating the soil infiltration, rainwater would run off more easily and less water would recharge into groundwater. Thanks to trees, this results in naturally cleaner water and a more reliable water supply because all of the rainwater doesn't end up as surface run-off flowing into a stream or wetland right away and slowly infiltrates through these natural filters over time.

Trees Reduce Stormwater Runoff and Prevent Erosion

Trees reduce stormwater runoff and erosion by storing water and breaking the force of rain as it falls. Tree roots hold the soil together. This helps prevent soil from being eroded or washed away during flooding events. This is especially important for homeowners on uneven land, as heavy rainfall could lead to foundational damage due to shifting soil. One of the many advantages of a tree is that it can help keep more water in place to better protect, restore, and replicate natural hydrology and also serves to cool and modify surrounding summer temperatures.

Did You Know? A single mature oak tree can consume over 40,000 gallons of water in a year.

Trees Reduce Climate Change and Prevent Air Pollution

Planting and preserving trees on your property helps reduce climate change and prevent air pollution. Through the natural process of photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other pollutant particulates that cause climate change, then store the carbon and emit pure oxygen.

Did You Know? An acre of trees absorbs the amount of carbon dioxide equal to driving your car 26,000 miles.

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting the Town's wetlands, natural resources, and open space. If you're planning a construction project or tree cutting and you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission office by calling 508- 785-0032 extension 7 or emailing us at conservation@doverma.org.

Tree Preservation Committee

Tree City USA Designation

The Tree Preservation Committee is applying for Dover to be awarded with our first Tree City USA designation. In support of that effort, the BOS approved and signed Dover's first ever Arbor Day Proclamation! Our community's first official observance of this historic event took place on Tuesday, November 14th on the Town Green near a newly planted Red Oak tree.

The location was chosen to symbolize our community's appreciation for trees in our public spaces. The newly planted Red Oak is replacing what was believed to be a 200+ year old White Oak that due to its decline, needed to be removed. The White Oak was captured standing wide and tall in photographs of the Town Center dating back to the 1870's.

Thank you to all who attended! A special thanks to Mark Ghiloni from Park & Rec, Kevin McCabe from Public Works, Jay Crocker, a local arborist and member of our Tree Preservation Committee, and Betty Brady from the Dover Historical Society for your collaboration and thoughtful efforts to preserve the natural resources of our Town Green.



an image of a red oak tree



Four people standing in front of tree

December Quick Links

- ➡ Take this survey to tell the Dover Town Library about the role the library plays in your life and our town, they especially want to hear from you if you don't use the library currently.
- ➡ Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.
- ➡ Register for the Community Center Club

[LEARN MORE](#)[LEARN MORE](#)[LEARN MORE](#)

Click below to stay updated on Town news

